

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, NK4 comprising:

- (a) expressing a nucleic acid encoding said polypeptide NK4 in a microbial host cell,
- (b) isolating inclusion bodies containing said polypeptide of NK4 in denatured form,
- (c) solubilizing the inclusion bodies at a pH of 7-9 in a phosphate buffered solution comprising a denaturing agent, and
- (d) renaturing the denatured NK4 polypeptide at a pH of 7-9 in a phosphate buffered solution comprising reduced glutathione (GSH) and oxidized glutathione (GSSG).

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein, after renaturing, the NK4 polypeptide is dialyzed with phosphate buffer at pH 7-9 for at least 24 hours.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the NK4 polypeptide is purified after renaturation by hydrophobic interaction chromatography in the presence of a phosphate buffer at pH 7-9.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the chromatography is performed on butyl sepharose or phenyl sepharose.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of said polypeptide that is GSH-modified NK4 is between 0% and 50% of the total amount of NK4 said polypeptide.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the amount of said polypeptide that is GSH-modified NK4 is between 0% and 20% of the total amount of NK4 said polypeptide.

7. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein steps (c) and (d) are each performed at a pH between 8 and 9.

8. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said solution used in step (d) further comprises a denaturing agent in a non-denaturing concentration.

9. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein said denaturing agent used in step (c) is guanidinium hydrochloride and said denaturing agent used in step (d) is arginine.

10. (New) A method according to claim 8, wherein said solution used in step (c) further comprises EDTA and DTT and said solution used in step (d) further comprises EDTA.

11. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein said solution used in step (c) comprises 6M guanidinium hydrochloride, 0.1M potassium phosphate pH 8.5, 1 mM EDTA, and 0.01 mM DTT and said solution used in step (d) comprises 0.7M arginine, 0.1M potassium phosphate pH 8.5, 10mM GSH, 5mM oxidized GSSG, and 1mM EDTA.